

## Appendix A Public Involvement

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Comments received on the Draft EIS will be addressed in the Final EIS, expected in late July 2001. When the Final EIS is published, BPA will provide everyone on the mailing list an opportunity to receive a copy.

Documents in this appendix include the following:

- Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on July 5, 2000.
- July 10, 2000, letter mailed to the mailing list, explaining the proposed project, the environmental process, and how to participate.
- Comment sheet included with letter so individuals could mail their comments back to BPA.
- BPA news release distributed July 17, 2000.
- Meeting notice, fact sheet, and comment form inserted into the July 20, 2000 Condon Times-Journal.
- November 15, 2000 letter mailed to the mailing list, describing some of the common comments and explaining how they will be used in drafting the EIS.
- April 9, 2001, letter mailed to the mailing list, explaining changes to the proposed project.

FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments on the Morgan Stanley request to export to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket EA-185-A. Additional copies are to be filed directly with William H. Penniman, Esq., Daniel E. Frank, Esq. Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004-2415 and William F. McCoy, Esq., Principal and Counsel, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, 27th Floor, New York, NY 10020.

DOE notes that the circumstances described in this application are virtually identical to those for which export authority had previously been granted in FE Order EA-185. Consequently, DOE believes that it has adequately satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 through the documentation of a categorical exclusion in the FE Docket EA-185 proceeding.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above or by accessing the Fossil Energy Home Page at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Regulatory Programs," then "Electricity Regulation," and then "Pending Proceedings" from the options menus.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 28, 2000.

**Anthony J. Como,**

*Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

[FR Doc. 00-16930 Filed 7-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Bonneville Power Administration

#### Condon Wind Project

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notice of floodplain and wetlands involvement.

**SUMMARY:** BPA intends to prepare an EIS on a proposed Condon Wind Project, located northwest of the town of Condon in Gilliam County, Oregon.

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. (SeaWest) proposes to construct and operate the 24.3 to 24.75 megawatt (MW) wind generation facility. BPA proposes to purchase the electrical output from the project and to provide transmission services. The EIS will be site-specific as to the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the wind project itself, as well as all related transmission facilities. In addition, the EIS will take a broad programmatic look at the balance of the project study area. This action may involve wetlands located in Gilliam County, Oregon. In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with wetlands environmental review requirements, BPA will prepare a wetlands assessment and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected wetlands. The assessment will be included in the EIS being prepared for the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**DATES:** BPA has established a 30-day scoping period during which affected landowners, concerned citizens, special interest groups, local governments, and any other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the proposed EIS. Scoping will help BPA ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposal is addressed in the EIS, and also will identify significant or potentially significant impacts that may result from the proposed project. Written comments are due to the address below no later than August 7, 2000. Comments may also be made at the EIS scoping meetings to be held on July 19 and 20, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** BPA invites comments and suggestions on the proposed scope of the Draft EIS. Send comment letters and requests to be placed on the project mailing list to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration—KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon, 97212. The phone number of the Communications office is 503-230-3478 in Portland; toll-free 1-800-622-4519 outside of Portland. Comments may also be sent to the BPA Internet address: [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov).

The EIS scoping meetings will be held at the City of Arlington Municipal Building, Council Chambers, Locust and First Streets, Arlington, Oregon, on July 19, 2000, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and at the Gilliam County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room, 221 S. Oregon Street, Condon, Oregon, on July 20, 2000, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. At these informal meetings, SeaWest will provide information, including maps, about the

wind project. Written information will be available, and BPA staff will answer questions and accept oral and written comments.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tiffany B. B. Branum, KEC-4, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208-3621, phone number 503-230-5115, fax number 503-230-5699.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Restructuring in the electric utility industry has resulted in increased demand for energy produced by new renewable resources. Part of this demand is due to the increased ability consumers have to choose their power provider. Some of these consumers want to encourage the development of renewable energy resources, and want their power provider to give them options for doing this. Some Northwest states (such as Oregon) have passed laws that require utilities to offer their customers a power rate that includes significant new renewable energy resources. In other cases, individual utilities have chosen to dedicate a portion of their wholesale power purchases to new renewable resources and are relying on BPA to supply them. In addition, the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fourth Conservation and Electric Power Plan recommends that Northwest utilities offer green power purchase opportunities as a way to help the region integrate renewable resources into the power system in the future.

##### Purpose and Need

In the face of regional growth in electrical loads and increasing constraints on the existing energy resource base, BPA needs to acquire resources that will contribute to diversification of the long-term power supply prospects in the region. The purposes of acquiring a diverse resource portfolio include:

- Protecting BPA and its customers against risk;
- Assuring consistency with BPA's responsibility under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act) to encourage the development of renewable energy resources;
- Meeting customer demand for energy from renewable energy resources, thereby assuring consistency with BPA's Business Plan EIS (DOE/EIS-0183, June 1995) and Business Plan Record of Decision (ROD);
- Assuring consistency with the resource acquisition strategy of BPA's

Resource Programs EIS (DOE/EIS-0162, February 1993) and ROD; and

- Meeting the objective in the January 2000 Strategic Plan of BPA's Power Business Line to acquire at least 150 average MW of new renewable resources by the end of fiscal year 2006 in order to meet customer demand for new renewable resources.

#### **Proposed Action**

BPA proposes to execute one or more power purchase and transmission services agreements to acquire and transmit up to the full electrical output of SeaWest's proposed Condon Wind Project. SeaWest proposes to construct and operate this 24.3 to 24.75 MW wind generation facility, located in southern Gilliam County, Oregon, northwest of the town of Condon. The proposed project site consists of relatively flat plateaus located in an area of rolling, arid hills bisected by canyons. Land uses within the project site consist of non-irrigated agriculture—winter wheat and cattle grazing. The project will be located entirely on private farmland, and no project facilities will be constructed upon lands owned by the State of Oregon or by the United States.

The approximately 26 to 41 turbines will be arranged in several "strings," with generally between 250 to 425 feet between turbines in each string. SeaWest is considering using either 600-kilowatt (kW) turbines similar to those used at the existing Foote Creek Rim Wind Project in Wyoming, or larger, up to 950-kW turbines. If the 600-kW turbines are used, the turbines will be about 165 to 197 feet tall at the turbine hub, and about 236 to 276 feet tall including the turbine blades. The diameter of the "swept area" covered by the rotors will be about 144 to 158 feet. Each turbine will be mounted on a tubular steel tower installed on a reinforced concrete foundation. Foundations will be either tubular or pad foundations, ranging from approximately 15 to 20 feet in width and extending up to 25 to 30 feet underground. If the 750-kW, 900-kW, or 950-kW turbines are used, or an alternative foundation design is utilized, these dimensions may be slightly greater. Agricultural activities generally can continue to take place directly adjacent to the turbine pads.

Power from all turbines in the project will be collected by an underground and overhead cable loop and then fed underground to a proposed substation to be located at the project site. The fenced substation site will occupy approximately one to two acres. From the substation site, power from the project will be transmitted by

approximately two to five miles of new above-ground lines (likely single-pole wood structures) to interconnect with the existing BPA De Moss-Condon 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. Other facilities required as part of the project are access roads, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, and onsite storage. Most of the access roads will consist of improved, graveled, existing farm roads, with some construction of new graveled roads in areas where usable farm roads do not exist. The O&M building will be on or near the project site. SeaWest proposes to begin construction in mid to late 2001. The Condon Wind Project is scheduled to begin commercial operation late in 2001, and would operate for at least 20 years.

#### **Process to Date**

Some environmental analyses have already been conducted by SeaWest. Surveys for sensitive plant and wildlife species were initiated in the spring of 2000. Scoping will help identify what additional studies will be required.

#### **Alternatives Proposed for Consideration**

The alternatives include the proposed action (executing a power purchase agreement with SeaWest for up to 24.75 MW of electrical energy from the proposed Condon Wind Project and authorizing transmission over BPA power lines) and the No Action alternative. In addition, at least two transmission alternatives will be examined in the EIS.

#### **Identification of Environmental Issues**

For other wind projects, noise, visual impact, influence on cultural resources, and effects on sensitive plant and animal species have been identified as potential environmental issues. The scoping process will help identify the range of environmental issues that should be addressed in this EIS. Maps and further information are available from BPA at the address above. When completed, the Draft EIS will be circulated for review and comment, and BPA will hold public comment meetings for the Draft EIS. BPA will consider and respond to comments received on the Draft EIS in the Final EIS, expected to be published in mid to late 2001. BPA's subsequent decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. The EIS will satisfy the requirements of NEPA.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on June 27, 2000.

**Judith A. Johansen,**

*Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.*  
[FR Doc. 00-16929 Filed 7-3-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**[Docket No. EC00-98-001]**

#### **Commonwealth Edison Company; Notice of Filing**

June 28, 2000.

Take notice that on June 20, 2000, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) tendered for filing an amendment to the application it filed in this proceeding on May 31, 2000.

ComEd states that it has, by mail, served a copy of the amendment on the Illinois Commerce Commission and on other identified entities.

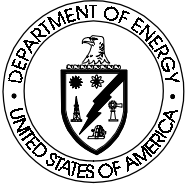
Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before July 11, 2000. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-16840 Filed 7-3-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-M**



## **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

July 10, 2000

In reply refer to: KECN-4

### **To: People Interested in the Condon Wind Project**

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. is proposing to build a new wind energy facility near Condon in Gilliam County, Oregon. (See enclosed map.) Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to purchase the electrical output from the project and provide transmission. This letter briefly explains the proposal and invites you to public meetings in Condon and Arlington to learn more. You are also invited to comment on the proposal.

#### **Wednesday, July 19, 2000**

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

City of Arlington Municipal Building  
Council Chambers  
Locust and First Streets  
Arlington, OR

#### **Thursday, July 20, 2000**

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Gilliam County Courthouse  
Circuit Court Room  
221 S. Oregon Street  
Condon, OR

Both meetings will be informal, open houses. Come anytime between 4:00 and 8:00, when it is convenient for you. Members of the project team will be available to describe the proposal and answer your questions. We plan a brief presentation around 5:00 and again at 7:00.

### **Proposal**

SeaWest proposes to build and operate a wind generation facility on private land northwest of Condon. SeaWest is studying a larger area initially and would locate the facility within that area based on wind conditions and environmental studies. The facility would generate about 24.5 megawatts of power. (A megawatt is an electrical unit of power equal to 1,000 kilowatts.) The designs being looked at would place from 26 to 41 turbines in strings (or rows) with from 250 to 425 feet between each turbine. SeaWest has not yet picked a turbine design, so exact numbers and distances are not yet known.

Power from the turbines would be collected by an underground and overhead cable loop. It would then be fed underground to a new 1 to 2-acre substation located on the project site. From the substation, the power would travel over new overhead lines for a distance of 2 to 5 miles (depending on the selected route) and connect into the existing Bonneville 69-kilovolt transmission line that runs between De Moss and Condon Substations.

The project would also require access roads, an operation and maintenance building, and onsite storage.

SeaWest would like to begin construction in mid to late 2001, with commercial operation starting in late 2001. The project would operate for at least 20 years.

### **Environmental Analysis**

Bonneville, as a Federal agency, must study the environmental impacts, both adverse and beneficial, of a proposed project before it can take action. This policy is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Act requires that significant environmental impacts of a proposed action be discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement. Because we are proposing to purchase power from the Condon Wind Project, we will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the entire proposal. The analysis will include at least two transmission alternatives.

### **To Comment**

If you have comments on the proposed Condon Wind Project, you can give them to us at the public meetings, leave a message on our toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, send an e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov), or mail them to: Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. If you comment by August 7, 2000, your ideas can affect the scope of our environmental studies.

### **For More Information**

If you have any questions about the proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, call my direct number (503) 230-4386, or send an e-mail to [gddarr@bpa.gov](mailto:gddarr@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ George D. Darr*

George D. Darr  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Map

## Condon Wind Project

### "I'd Like to Tell You . . ."

1. When you prepare your environmental analysis, please consider: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Please avoid areas like: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. I need more information about: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. I have these other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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(If you need more space, please use the back.)

☐ Please put me on your project mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your comments by August 7, 2000 to:

Bonneville Power Administration  
Public Affairs Office - KC-7  
P.O. Box 12999  
Portland, OR 97212



## BPA evaluates new wind power development

The Bonneville Power Administration and SeaWest WindPower Inc. signed a pre-development agreement for the 24-megawatt Condon Wind Project today [date]. BPA is considering a 20-year power purchase agreement for the project's output. The predevelopment agreement describes how SeaWest and BPA will cooperate while BPA conducts an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The Condon Wind Project would be located on private land in Gilliam County, Ore., near the town of Condon. This is one of several new sites that SeaWest believes hold great promise. SeaWest and BPA are interested in pioneering the Condon site to see if it is a dependable source of wind power. BPA could add the Condon project's output to its portfolio of Environmentally Preferred Power, which is in high demand from regional utilities. BPA currently has 33.9 MW of wind power in its environmentally preferred power portfolio.

Initial reactions to the project have been very positive. "As co-chair of the U.S. Congressional Renewable Energy Caucus in the House of Representatives, I am very supportive of efforts to harness the wind to provide energy for our communities. With high energy prices nationwide this summer, it's more important than ever for us to take advantage of alternative sources of power," said Congressman Greg Walden (R-Ore.).

Nancy Hirsh, policy director for the NW Energy Coalition, said, "We are pleased to see that wind power is becoming part of BPA's vision for the future. This is one of a series of new wind farms backed by BPA."

As the first step in conducting the EIS, BPA will set a 30-day scoping period during which affected landowners, concerned citizens, special interest groups, local

governments and other interested parties can comment on the scope of the EIS. SeaWest will work closely with the local community regarding any concerns about the environmental effects of the development.

If the project passes environmental muster, 600 or 950 kilowatt turbines would be spaced across the relatively flat plateau currently used for winter wheat farming and cattle grazing. The project would not interfere with either activity.

SeaWest is the largest independent developer of utility-scale wind power projects in the world and has developed sites in Wyoming, California, the United Kingdom and Spain. The Condon project is the first of what the company hopes will be between 300 and 500 MW of renewable projects in the Pacific Northwest.

CONTACT:

George Darr, BPA (503) 230-4386; [gddarr@bpa.gov](mailto:gddarr@bpa.gov)

Dave Roberts, SeaWest (619) 908-3440; [droberts@seawestwindpower.com](mailto:droberts@seawestwindpower.com)



# BPA sets public meeting to tell of windpower proposal, hear comments

Public meetings have been scheduled at Arlington and Condon this week to provide information and take questions from the public on SeaWest WindPower, Inc.'s proposal to build a new wind energy facility near Condon.

The first meeting was held Wednesday, July 19, at Arlington, and the second will be held today, July 20, 4 to 8 p.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon.

The meeting is planned as an informal open house, and area residents are invited to attend anytime between 4 and 8 p.m. Members of SeaWest's project team will be available to describe the proposal and answer questions. A brief presentation will be made about 5 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

SeaWest proposes to build and operate a wind generation facility on private land northwest of Condon. The company is studying a larger area initially, and would locate the facility within that area based on wind conditions and environmental studies.

The facility would generate about 24.5 megawatts of power. Designs currently being looked at by the company would place from 26 to 41 turbines in rows with from 250 to 425 feet between each turbine. The turbine design has not been selected, however, so exact numbers of the turbines and the distances are still undecided.

According to information provided by the Bonneville Power Administration, power from the turbines would be collected by an underground and overhead cable loop. It would then be fed underground to a new one to two-acre substation located on the

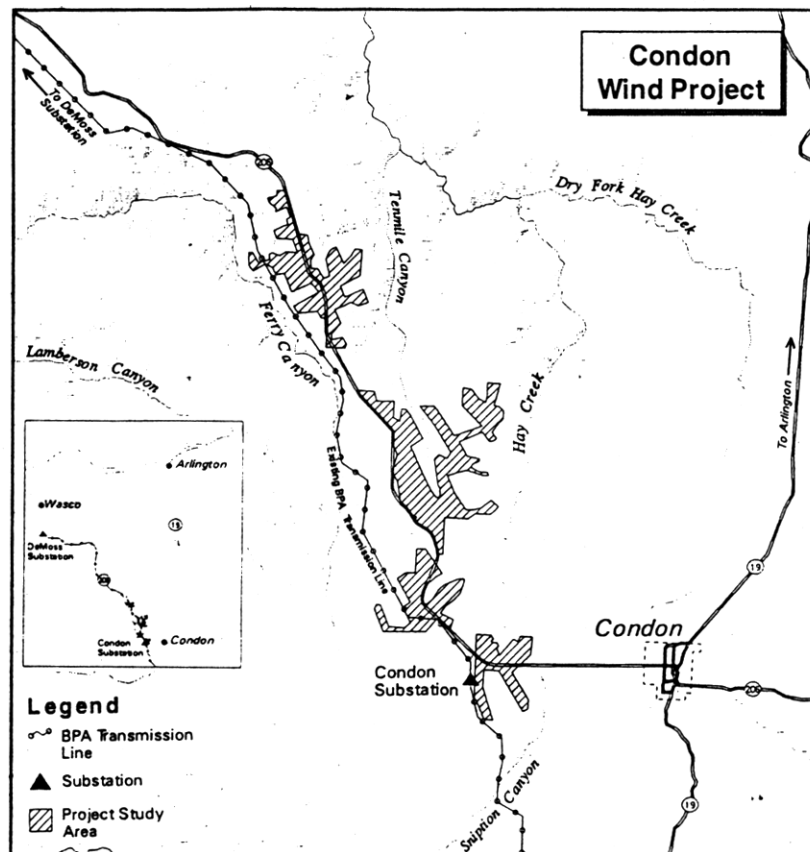
project site. From the substation, the power would travel through new overhead lines a distance of two to five miles and connect into BPA's existing 69-kilovolt line that runs between DeMoss and Condon substations.

BPA is proposing to purchase the electrical output from the project and provide transmission, according to George Darr, project manager for BPA.

The project would also require access roads, an operation and

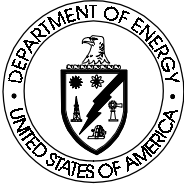
maintenance building and onsite storage.

Comments about the proposed project can be made at the public meeting, or area residents can leave a message by calling BPA, 1-800-622-4519, send an e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov), or mail comments to BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. Comments received by Aug. 7 can affect the scope of BPA's environmental studies, according to Darr.



The map above shows the study areas designated in Gilliam County by SeaWest WindPower, Inc. for the development of a wind-powered electrical generation facility. Power generated by the proposed facility would be purchased by BPA and enter the power grid between the DeMoss and Condon substations.

CONDON TIMES - JOURNAL 7/20/00



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

November 15, 2000

In reply refer to: PGC-6

### **To: People Interested in the Condon Wind Project**

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. is proposing to build a new wind energy facility near Condon in Gilliam County, Oregon. Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to purchase the electrical output from the project and provide transmission. This letter gives an update on the project and summarizes comments we received in July when the project was first announced and we held meetings in Condon and Arlington.

### **Proposed Project**

SeaWest proposes to build and operate a wind generation facility on private land northwest of Condon (see attached map). SeaWest is studying a larger area initially and would locate the facility within that area based on wind conditions and environmental studies. The facility would generate about 24.5 megawatts (MW) of power (one average MW can provide electricity for 250 homes).

There is a relationship between number, height, and spacing of turbines: as the size of turbines increases, the spacing between them increases, and the number needed decreases. SeaWest has not yet chosen the turbine models, so exact numbers, distances, and heights are not yet known. The range of turbine designs being considered would produce from 600 to 1650 kilowatts of power (1000 kilowatts is equal to one MW). With the largest turbines, 15 would be needed; with the smallest, 41. Turbines would be placed in strings (or rows) with from 250 to 690 feet between each turbine in a string. The total turbine height, including the rotor blades, would be from 236 to 378 feet.

Power from the turbines would be collected by an underground and overhead cable loop. It would then be transmitted 1-2 miles to a new ½-1 acre substation located near the BPA transmission line. The power would be transferred to the existing BPA 69-kilovolt transmission line that runs between De Moss and Condon Substations.

The project would also require access roads, an operation and maintenance building, and onsite storage. SeaWest would like to begin construction in mid to late 2001, with commercial operation starting in late 2001. The project would operate for at least 20 years.

### **Environmental Analysis**

As a Federal agency, BPA must study the environmental impacts, both adverse and beneficial, of this proposed project before it can take action. This policy is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 that requires potential environmental impacts of a proposed action to be made public before decision-making. Environmental impacts will be discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### **Public Comments**

In July we asked for comments on the proposal to help us develop the environmental study. We mailed a comment form, held two public meetings, and asked people to phone, write, or e-mail any comments. We received 243 comments. The comments covered all aspects of the project and the EIS.

People clearly supported wind power, but wanted to know more about how it works. Sixty-seven comments sought information about the project design.

*How many towers will there be?*  
*How tall will they be?*  
*How big are the blades?*  
*How much wind is needed?*

Environmental topics attracted 109 comments. The category receiving most comments was Socioeconomic. Of particular interest was how the project would affect local taxes, power rates, and employment.

*Who will pay the taxes on the land?*  
*Is there a royalty payment to the local government?*  
*Reducing rates would be a good outcome.*  
*How many jobs would be available to local residents?*

Two other categories drew attention. The topic of Fish, Wildlife, and Vegetation received 15 comments; nearly all dealt with birds. Specifically named were: raptors, geese, merlin, owl, chukar, pheasant, bluebird, robin, and bald eagle.

There were 12 comments on Land Use/Recreation. Most of those focused on how the project would affect farming.

### **How We Use the Comments**

All the comments we received will help shape the analysis in the EIS. The comments have helped us to identify the key issues to be addressed in the EIS, as well as the impacts of most concern. Everyone who commented has been added to the project mail list.

### **Project Schedule and Next Steps**

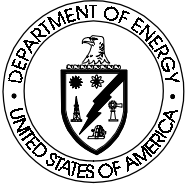
We are progressing according to schedule and plan to have a Draft EIS ready for public review next March. Please fill-in and return the enclosed postcard to let us know if you would like to receive the entire EIS (around 250 pages), the summary (around 25 pages), or a copy by electronic mail. Even if you don't return the postcard, we will let you know when the Draft EIS is available.

If you have any questions about the proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, call my direct number at (503) 230-4386, or send an e-mail to [gddarr@bpa.gov](mailto:gddarr@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

George D. Darr  
 Project Manager

Enclosures:  
 Map  
 Postcard



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

April 9, 2001

In reply refer to: PGC-6

### **To: People Interested in the Condon Wind Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to purchase the electrical output and provide transmission for the Condon Wind Project, a new wind energy facility being proposed by SeaWest WindPower, Inc., near Condon in Gilliam County, Oregon. We are considering some changes to the proposal. This letter will bring you up-to-date.

### **Proposal**

SeaWest has proposed to build and operate a wind generation facility on private land northwest of Condon (see attached map). SeaWest originally proposed a facility that would generate about 24.6 megawatts (MW) of power. SeaWest leased more land than would be needed with plans to narrow the choice based on results of wind studies and other environmental factors.

### **Wind Data**

The wind data collected so far depicts a less economic wind resource than anticipated. A larger project may be more economical. Over the last few weeks, SeaWest and BPA have looked for ways to restructure the project to reduce the cost of power.

While SeaWest has filed a development application with Gilliam County for a 24.6 MW wind facility, we want you to know the project could expand to 49.8 MW.

### **Turbine Design**

SeaWest has decided to use 600-kilowatt wind turbines (1000 kilowatts equal one MW). The 24.6 MW proposal would require 41 of these turbines; the 49.8 MW proposal, if requested, would require up to 83 turbines. The turbines would be approximately 274 feet tall including the rotor blades. The turbines would be placed in strings (or rows) with approximately 400 to 480 feet between each turbine in a string.

### **Environmental Impact Statement**

As a Federal agency, BPA must study the environmental impacts of a proposed project. This policy is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which requires potential environmental impacts be considered and made public before a decision is made. Environmental impacts are discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

BPA is preparing an EIS on the Condon Wind Project. From the beginning, our analysis looked at impacts within the larger area. If SeaWest amends its application to request a larger project, the expansion would occur within the area already studied. To ensure that all of the environmental effects of an expanded project are fully evaluated, the Draft EIS will be based on the assumption that the expanded project could be built.

**Schedule**

The Draft EIS will be complete in about a month. We will let you know when it is available.

If the project is approved by Gilliam County and BPA agrees to purchase the power output, SeaWest hopes to begin construction in late 2001, with commercial operation for the 24.6 MW facility starting in late 2001. If the project application is amended to request approval of a larger project, the balance of the expanded project (approximately 42 more turbines) would be constructed in 2002. The project would operate for at least 20 years.

**For More Information**

If you have any questions about the proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, call my direct number at (503) 230-4386, or send an e-mail to [gddarr@bpa.gov](mailto:gddarr@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

George D. Darr  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Map